

First Baptist Church Sponsorship Expectations | 2016

Our Commitment

We at First Baptist Church have made a commitment to the Government of Canada to provide you with financial, practical and social support for your first year in Canada. This is part of Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Although our formal commitment will only last one year, we hope this is the start of a friendship that will last a lifetime.

Welcoming You

We will welcome you at the airport and provide you with a place to stay right away. We will help you find permanent housing and make sure you have the things you need to begin your life here.

Getting to Know Each Other

There are more than 40 people from First Baptist Church who are committed to welcoming and supporting you. We will make sure you know the names and contact information of specific people who can help you with specific things you may need help with.

It will take time for us to get to know each other. We might not always understand each other perfectly. If you have any questions, please ask! We will all be learning together in the year ahead.

Financial Support

We are responsible to pay for start up costs when you first arrive in Edmonton and to provide you with monthly income support during the first year you live here. We will also pay for emergency costs if needed.

Our expectation is that during this year you will work towards being able to support yourself financially by pursuing EDUCATION or EMPLOYMENT or both. We can help you do that.

START UP COSTS include things like:

- first month's rent, security deposit, utilities hook-up costs
- basic household items, appliances, furniture
- winter clothes
- new phones or SIM cards
- food to stock your kitchen

MONTHLY INCOME SUPPORT will depend on your needs. Soon after you arrive we will work out a realistic monthly budget together with you for rent, utilities, transportation costs, groceries, and other regular expenses.

You will receive Monthly Income Support from First Baptist Church on the first day of each month. If your landlord requires it, First Baptist Church will pay your rent and deduct this amount from your Monthly Income Support. [If BVOR: From February to July, part of your Monthly Income Support will be paid through Resettlement Assistance Program payments from the Government of Canada.]

_____ will review this budget with you every 3 months so we can make changes if needed.

Practical Support

There are a lot of practical things newcomers need to do when they first arrive. We will help you with all these things. Here is a checklist so you can keep track:

Apply for essential documents & benefits:

- Social Insurance Number
- Permanent Resident Card
- Alberta Health Care Coverage & Card
- Interim Federal Health Plan
- Child Tax Benefit
- GST Rebate
- Open bank account

● Find health care providers:

- Family doctor
- Dentist
- Optometrist
- Counselling & mental health care services

● Enroll children in school**● Register for English language assessment & classes****Social & Emotional Support**

Adapting to life in a new country with unfamiliar cultural customs, languages and expectations can be difficult. We want to make the adjustment easier for you by helping you with the following activities:

- Introduce you to places of worship
- Refer you to programs that support refugees and immigrants
- Offer language assistance and translation
- Find out about employment opportunities and job preparation courses
- Explore options for post-secondary education
- Help you adapt to our climate
- Get involved in community activities like sports programs
- Show you around our city including important places like:
 - Grocery stores
 - Public libraries
 - Post offices
 - Schools
 - Banks
- Introduce you to our public transportation system
- Assist you with getting an Alberta driver's licence
- Understand our health care system and education system
- Learn about your rights and responsibilities as a Permanent Resident of Canada
- Share friendship and hospitality

It is our responsibility and our heartfelt commitment to support you as you begin your life here. If there is anything you are wondering about, please just ask! We will always do our best to help!

We will give you a list of useful phone numbers.

If ever you need **urgent** help, you can call _____.

You can also call the First Baptist Church office (780 422 2214) if you need help.